

HAILEY'S ON IT!
"Dead Bots Tell No Tales"
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EXT. OPEN OCEAN - NIGHT

An <EERIE SEA SHANTY> plays over a CLIPPER SHIP adrift on the ocean. TWO SAILORS secure its precious cargo of CUCKOO CLOCKS. Suddenly, a WEATHERED PIRATE SHIP sails into frame-- unmanned! Its TATTERED JOLLY ROGER billows in the wind.

BETA (V.O.)
Legend speaks of a haunted pirate
ship that lurks in Oceanside Bay.

The pirate ship <FIRES> CANNONS at the clipper ship.

BETA (V.O.)
But not just any pirate ship -- a
ghost pirate ship! Arrrgh!

CARGO flies overboard, and the terrified sailors abandon ship as clocks <CUCKOO> into the water.

BETA (V.O.)
To this day, any ship foolish
enough to sail into the bay is at
risk of attack by the ghost ship!

The pirate ship's MERMAID FIGUREHEAD wipes frame.

FLIP TO:

EXT. HARBOR - DOCK - NIGHT

REVEAL HAILEY (with BETA in the backpack) and SCOTT (terrified) standing on a gangway to an OLD TIMEY REPLICA CLIPPER SHIP with 'Star of Oceanside' on its bow.

BETA
With that in mind, let's get on
this boat!

SCOTT
Did you say G-G-Ghost?

WIDEN FURTHER to reveal Scott's dog, BUCKY -- a large, cowardly Great Dane, trembling beside him.

BUCKY
R-R-Rhost?

HAILEY

Beta, knock it off, you're scaring Scott. And...his dog.

SCOTT

Go home, Bucky. I'm a big boy now, can handle this on my own.

Bucky hangs his head <GROAN> and heads off.

BETA

Even Scott's weird dog knows that sword fighting on the open sea isn't scary, it's awesome! And it's not my fault this buffoon is scared of his own shadow.

SCOTT

I'm not scared of my <AHHH>!

ANGLE ON SCOTT'S SHADOW on the ground, cast by the moonlight.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

(to shadow)

What are **you** doing here?

HAILEY

Scott, the ghost ship is just a legend. Plus, we're staying on a regular ship that's never leaving the harbor. Easy peasy!

BETA

If you're so easy breezy, then why'd you write 'Survive the night on the Star of Oceanside field trip' on your list?

The list item (#444 Survive the night on the Star of Oceanside Field Trip) appears on Beta's screen.

HAILEY

I'll admit there **was** a time I was scared knowing this field trip was coming up. Heck, there was a time I was afraid of fizzy water.

SCOTT

It's too spicy!

HAILEY

Facts! But I'm not gonna let an overnight field trip and a silly ghost story freak me out.

TINA (O.S.)
What's that mom?

ANGLE ON TINA facing away and speaking into her phone,
walking down the gangway, away from the clipper ship.

TINA (CONT'D)
You say grandma's sick and I have to
come home right this minute?

HAILEY
Your phone is banana.

Tina turns to reveal her phone is in fact a banana.

TINA
(caught)
Oh. Good. Guess I can stay.
(into banana, sadly)
Bye, mom.

Tina hesitantly walks back up the gangway, eating the banana.

FLIP TO:

EXT. CLIPPER SHIP - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

The over-the-top LARPerS, CAPTAIN GREGORY dressed in 18TH CENTURY FINERY including a WHITE ALONGE WIG, and enthusiastic FIRST MATE ZOOT, wearing a HEAD BANDANA, STRIPED SHIRT and BOARD SHORTS, standing in a silly pose.

GREGORY/ZOOT
Gird thyselfs for our jolly song!/
Spoiler: it's not great!

Gregory and Zoot proceed to slap their knees and do a jig as they sing an exuberant <SEA SHANTY> (a la **The Dublin Pub Crawl** by The Irish Rovers) to nonplussed STUDENTS.

GREGORY/ZOOT (CONT'D)
*Listen up lads and lassies all,
leave your fun upon the shore.
There are jobs to do as a merchant
crew /and they'll feel just like a
chore!*
(miming each job)
*You'll hoist the sails and swab the
deck, and don't forget the stew!
You'll tie the knots, yes tie them
taut, there's nothing you won't
do! (It's honestly a lot of work!)*

KRISTINE enters decked out in ELABORATE PERIOD ATTIRE and HAT. She pulls a stack of ROLLING CASES as she LIVESTREAMS.

KRISTINE

Ahoy, mateys! Who's ready to rough it on the hashtag open seas?

HAILEY

Hey, Kristine.

KRISTINE

Hailey, isn't this so amazing?!

HAILEY

That they're putting us to work as deckhands? I didn't think you'd be excited about menial tasks.

KRISTINE

I was talking about my outfit.

HAILEY

(in a pirate voice)

Aye, yer a real bonnie lass.

KRISTINE

Bonnie? No, my name's Kristine. Hailey, I think the sea air is getting to you.

GREGORY

(British accent)

Ahoy, young Jack Tars! Welcome to the Star of Oceanside experience! It is I, Captain Gregory, your noble commanding officer on these seven seas!

ZOOT (O.S.)

And I'm Zoot, the host with the most and First Mate to my man Captain Bouncy Curls.

Zoot fluffs Gregory's wig. Gregory seethes. Kids <GIGGLE>.

GREGORY

(under his breath)

Curse us for having the same agent.

(back to captain)

Avast! The time to name the noble crew is nigh. We must commence this excursion if our vessel's to be ship shape by--

ZOOT
 This guy! "Blah blah chip chip
 cheerio!" Let's get this show on
 the road! Time to assign jobs.

Zoot pulls out a CLIPBOARD with various deckhand jobs listed
 (galley, crow's nest, tying knots, hoisting sails, etc.)

AC (O.S.)
 I think it's pretty obvious that I
 should be captain.

ANGLE ON a BARREL that gets moved aside, REVEALING AC.

GREGORY
 Ho ho, but I'm the captain.

AC
 I'll be First Mate then.

ZOOT
 That spot's taken, lil' buddy.

AC
 <GRUMBLES>. Fine, I'll be the
 Second First Mate!

TINA
 I don't think that's a thing--

AC
 I'm in charge! And I have a very
 important title, which comes with
 this clipboard.

AC grabs the clipboard out of Zoot's hands.

KRISTINE
 I'll stand lookout in the crow's
 nest. I wanna livestream my hair
 blowing in the majestic wind!

Kristine poses in the breeze, but suddenly a GUST OF WIND
 blasts her and blows her hat off. She chases it <AHH>!

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
 Can someone turn the air down?!

Beta emerges, donning a PIRATE HAT and HOOK HAND.

BETA
 Hailey, pick a fun job like
 plundering. I wanna get my pirate
 on!

HAILEY
Where'd you get that stuff?

BETA
Koala Kidz expansion pack, you
scalawag!

AC approaches and Beta ducks back into the backpack.

AC
Denoga! What vocation choose ye?

SCOTT
You lost me there, AC, but all I
wanna do is swab the poop deck! My
math teacher says I have a bright
future pushing a mop. Plus, I love
saying 'poop.' Heh, poop.

Just then, MORDECAI (Sanjay's carrier pigeon), swoops in. He
deliberately crashes into Scott <OOF!>.

HAILEY
Hi, Mordecai!

Mordecai lands gently on Hailey's shoulder and drops a ROLLED
LETTER in her hand, then perches on the MAST.

HAILEY (CONT'D)
Ooh, it's a DM from Sanjay!
(opens letter and reads)
"Dear Hailey, time passes so
unbearably slowly without you.
Each second is like a minute, each
minute like an hour, each hour is--

SCOTT
Like a headache.

HAILEY
(clutching her letter)
Aw, he misses me! Suddenly being
on this ship feels so romantic.

AC (O.S.)
Ahem!

HAILEY
<UGH>. Well, that passed.

AC stands uncomfortably close to Hailey, clipboard in hand.

AC
You haven't chosen your deckhand
job, Wailey Banks. I see toilet
duty is still avail--

ANGLE on the clipboard. AC is about to mark 'Toilets,' but
Hailey scans the jobs, grabs his PEN, and makes a CHECKMARK.

HAILEY
No! I'll take..."tie knots." I
marked it so now you can't change
it.

AC grabs his pen back, <HARUMPHS>, and shuffles off.

AC
(grumbling)
Stupid permanent ink...

HAILEY
That should be easy enough! Then I
write Sanjay back.

SCOTT
But tying knots sounds--

HAILEY
--pointless, I know.

SCOTT
Hailey, every job on a crew is
important. That's why I'm gonna do
a killer job swabbing the poop
deck! Heh heh. "Poop." Still
funny!

HAILEY
This is gonna be a breeze.

EXT. CLIPPER SHIP - STERN - LATER

Hailey ties MOORING ROPE into a knot on a WOODEN BOLLARD.

HAILEY
And...done!

AC (O.S.)
If by 'done' you mean "I did a
terrible job," then you are
correct.

HAILEY
Yeahhh, I just wish someone smart
and strong would show me how to do
it.

AC
Well, it's very easy...

AC grabs the rope and starts tying it to the bollard. As he
mansplains, Hailey gets to writing her letter.

AC (CONT'D)
Remember, proper technique is to
pass the rope through the rabbit
hole, then around the tree, then
back into the rabbit hole, and then
you tug to test. Perfect, AC,
great job as usual.

ANGLE ON AC's perfect BOWLINE KNOT. He sees Hailey's not
paying attention, and seethes.

AC (CONT'D)
Ughhh, I've been hornswaggled! You
know what? Do it yourself, Failey!

AC unties the knot he just made.

HAILEY
I know how to tie a knot, AC, I've
been tying my shoes since kinder.

AC
Kinder!? <SCOFFS> You always were
a little behind the curve.

AC saunters off.

HAILEY
(calling after AC)
Yeah, well, your leadership skills
are lousy! More like second rate
Second Mate. Ha, good one, Hailey.

Hailey rushes through tying her knot again.

HAILEY (CONT'D)
There. Now to get back to what's
really important...

IN A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS

<ROMANTIC-ERA MUSIC> plays as we see Hailey absorbed in writing her response letter, while her classmates do their deckhand jobs around her:

HAILEY (V.O.)
Dearest Sanjay, your resplendent
words stir a sonnet in my heart.

-MURRAY walks up from the galley carrying a BIG POT OF STEW. Hailey obliviously bumps into him, causing him to spill stew everywhere. LUCY slips on it and falls down into the galley.

HAILEY (V.O.)
As this sparkling vessel ferries me
to distant shores--

-Not looking where she's going, Hailey accidentally tracks stew all over Scott's clean poop deck. Scott <YELPS>, then immediately swabs the deck again.

HAILEY (V.O.)
--my heart yearns for the moment we
can gaze upon each other once more.

-Hailey doesn't like something she wrote, so she wads up the paper and tosses it over her shoulder just as Kristine is climbing the ladder to the crow's nest. The paper hits Kristine in the face and she tumbles into a net, dropping her SPYGLASS <WHOA>!

HAILEY (V.O.)
But I will keep my head held high,
take heed of the world around me,
holding tight to the wisdom that I
am thine.

-Mid-stride, Hailey moves a BEAM out of her way, not realizing it's connected to a SAIL. We suddenly see AC's little legs fly vertically into the air as he grips the sail's rope he was holding.

AC
What the beeeans?!

END SERIES OF QUICK CUTS

EXT. CLIPPER SHIP - MAIN DECK - LATER

Hailey rolls her long letter into scroll as Scott approaches.

SCOTT
Boy, re-swabbing that poop deck
really pooped me out!

BETA
Can we do something piratey now?

A gentle bell <RINGS>.

GREGORY
Time for bed, weary voyagers!

BETA
Oh, you gotta be kidding me!

GREGORY
When the night kisses the dawn--

<AIRHORN BLAST!> Chip holds an airhorn and continues to blow it as kids cover their ears.

ZOOT
THAT'S THE QUIET DOWN HORN!
EVERYONE QUIET DOWN!

Gregory grabs the airhorn out of Zoot's hands.

GREGORY
(under his breath)
I don't get paid enough for this.

ZOOT
You're getting paid? I thought we
just got free stew!

As Gregory and Zoot <BICKER>, we see most of the kids, tired from their work, have already fallen asleep in their SLEEPING BAGS. Hailey and Scott settle in for the night.

SCOTT
Hey, did you finish your knot duty?

Just then, Mordecai swoops in and uses his TALONS to tear Scott's sleeping bag as he lands. <AAAHH!>

HAILEY
Yeah, yeah, I passed the tree
through the rabbit and tugged or
whatever. I told you everything
was gonna be fine.

Hailey hands her rolled up letter to Mordecai, gives him a pet, and sends him off. He struggles to carry the weight of the letter in his talons <SQUAWK>!

As Hailey lies down with a smile on her face, we PAN OVER to the ROPE KNOT she hurriedly tied earlier, which we see is starting to unravel.

EXT. CLIPPER SHIP - MAIN DECK - NIGHT - LATER

We're TIGHT ON Hailey, asleep in her SLEEPING BAG. Suddenly, her peaceful body is slammed into by Murray in his sleeping bag. Hailey <GRUMBLES>. Then, they both slide in their sleeping bags and slam into Tina. Tina barks a groggy <WATCH IT!> Then, more kids slide the other way, and we hear a loud <CRASH> out of frame. All the students wake up confused.

AC
 (half awake)
 Mommy? What's happening? Did I
 have another accident?
 (now fully awake)
 Why are we moving so much?

BORED MURRAY
 I'm gonna sleep on the dock. See
 you guys on dry land.

Bored Murray chucks his things over the side of the ship. A distinct <SPLASH> breaks the silence.

BORED MURRAY (CONT'D)
 Where's the dry land?

We PULL WIDE to see that the ship is now undocked, and floating in the middle of the ocean! Gregory and Zoot scramble onto the deck and assess the situation.

GREGORY
 Alas, our vessel is adrift on the
 wild high seas!

ZOOT
 Yeah, and our boat's in the middle
 of the ocean, too!

TINA
 How did this happen?

AC
 There was only one person in charge
 of securing the knots that hold the
 ship to the dock...

In one motion, everyone turns and glares at Hailey.

HAILEY
 Whoopsie?

Kids <PANIC MURMUR>, but AC takes the floor.

AC

There is no need to panic. As
Second First Mate, I'm confident
our Captain and First Mate can get
us back to shore.

GREGORY

(breaks character)

Are you kidding me, kid? I don't
know how to sail!

ZOOT

I didn't even realize we were on a
boat! But we can sing the song
again...

As Gregory and Zoot proceed to <SING> the menial task song--

SCOTT

If we're out of the safety of the
harbor, that means we're an easy
target for the... g-g-ghost ship!

Bucky pops out of a barrel like a stowaway.

BUCKY

R-R-Rhost ship?!

HAILEY

Scott, I told you, there's no such
thing as a--

KRISTINE (O.S.)

GHOST SHIP!!! <SCARED SQUEAL!>

In the distance, we see a PIRATE SHIP moving through the FOG.
It seems to be sailing on its own with no one onboard!

SCOTT

Ghosts are real?!

Beta pops out of his own tiny sleeping bag (in the backpack).

BETA

(in awe)

Pirates are real?!

AC

Oh, get real. I'm sure this is all
part of the experience!

Suddenly, they hear a CANNON <FIRE!> A CANNON BALL
obliterates a CRATE beside them!

ZOOT

This is not part of the experience!

AC

Every hunky sailor for themselves!

AC runs off. Hailey grabs a spyglass and peers at the ship.

SPYGLASS POV: WE REVEAL the ship is actually being manned by CHAOS BOTS! Hailey sees bots in PIRATE GEAR pull the sails and man the cannons, one VERY DISTINCT BOT with a PEG-LEG and PIRATE CAPTAIN'S HAT, balances on the wheel with bravado. The last thing she spies is a SIGN on the ship that reads 'Captain Stu's Party Cruise' with a picture of CAPTAIN STU in a Hawaiian print shirt and a PARROT on his shoulder.

HAILEY

That's no ghost ship! Those are chaos bots on a stolen party boat.

Another cannon <FIRES> and hits the water!

HAILEY (CONT'D)

Impressed they got the cannons working.

GREGORY/ZOOT

Abandon ship! / We gotta jet!

Gregory and Zoot push the kids to the LIFEBOATS. AC tries to jump in, but his short legs don't give him enough leverage, so he slides back down every time.

AC

Aw, what the beans?!

Hailey takes in the panicked scene before her.

HAILEY

This is all my fault.

BETA

Yes, how very irresponsible, blah blah blah, you learned your lesson. Can we get to swashbuckling now?!

Just then, another cannon <FIRES> and blows a hole in one of the ship's sails! Hailey steels herself.

HAILEY

Beta, can you steady the ship?

BETA

You Beta believe it!

Suddenly, the chaos bots' ship pulls close, and bots use ROPES to swing across onto their ship. Hailey grabs TWO MOUNTED PROP SWORDS and tosses one to Scott.

HAILEY
Scott, we've got bots to destroy!

SCOTT
Aye, aye, Captain!

Hailey and Scott <SLASH> at them, <KNOCK> them over, and <SLICE> them in half. Several bots land in a CRATE WITH BARS that locks them in. Bucky sits just outside their reach with KEYS dangling from his mouth (a la *Pirates of the Caribbean*), before he bucks them overboard and <SNICKERS>.

More bots swing over, but slip across Scott's expertly-waxed poop deck and then fly overboard.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
And that's why you swab the poop deck!

Hailey and Scott brace themselves for an epic swashbuckling battle, and swing onto the...

EXT. CHAOS BOT PIRATE SHIP - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

<EPIC PIRATE MUSIC> plays as the battle plays out:

-Scott backs a chaos bot off the edge of the PLANK, and it plunges into the murky water below. <CHAOS!>

-Hailey pushes the BOOM to knock a trio of bots out.

-Scott spins a STEERING WHEEL covered in bots, and sends them flinging over the side. <CHAOS!> <CHAOS!> <CHAOS!>

-Hailey jams a chaos bot into a CANNON and shoots him out.

HAILEY
Fire in the hole!

CHAOS BOT
(Goofy holler style)
Cha-ah-ah-ah-oss!

-Hailey's in a final battle with the captain bot, who removes his peg leg and pops it out into a tiny but DEADLY SWORD. They swing at each other, dodging and weaving each others' advances. Finally, the bot disarms Hailey. It looks like all is lost, but just then...

SCOTT (O.S.)
 (hauntingly slow)
*You'll hoist the sails and swab the
 deck, and don't forget the stew.
 You'll tie the knots, yes tie them
 taut, there's nothing you won't do.*

As Scott sings the menial task song from earlier, the captain bot turns to look. The bot tilts his head <CHAOS?> and is transfixed. Hailey springs into action, tying a rope around the distracted bot, knotting it securely, then backing away. The bot looks down at the knot.

HAILEY
 And that's why you tug to test!

She kicks a barrel overboard that's attached to the rope, and it yanks the bot into the water with it. <CHAAA000SSSS!>

EXT. CLIPPER SHIP - MAIN DECK - DAWN

As the sun rises in the distance, Hailey and Scott swing back onto their own ship. Beta proudly mans the wheel.

BETA
 I've chartered the course home,
 Captain.

As the sun comes up, Hailey's WRISTBAND turns green.

SCOTT
 What a night. I feel--

HAILEY
 Pooped?

SCOTT
 Ha, nice! I was gonna say
 exhausted. And I guess you were
 right, Hailey. There's no such
 thing as a ghost ship.

Just then, over Scott's shoulder, Hailey spies another SHIP in the distance, which then disappears into thin air.

HAILEY
 (covering)
 Uh, yup. No such thing as a ghost
 ship!

Off the terrified Hailey, staring straight ahead, we...

FADE OUT.